

Statement by Andrea Rocca, Transparency International

Mr President,

Distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity for us to speak on this agenda item.

Transparency International has long advocated for a robust review mechanism. Our chapters have been active in contributing to both cycles of the review.

We believe that the review mechanism must be strengthened. Ensuring participation of civil society in all phases of UNCAC country reviews, transparency of the engagement with stakeholders and of the full results of the reviews, and civil society involvement in the implementation of recommendations will make the IRM more effective and will lead to better identification of technical assistance needs. These measures will also bring the IRM in line with the requirements set forth for States Parties in Article 13 of the Convention. Transparency International therefore welcomes the UK initiative to strengthen transparency and participation of civil society in the Implementation Review Mechanism. We commend the States Parties that have joined the initiative and the UNCAC Coalition Transparency Pledge, and we urge States Parties that have not yet done so to join them.

Ensuring participation of society as provided for in Article 13 is part of States Parties' international human rights obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights to participation in public affairs and freedom of association, assembly and expression. Respect for these rights is essential for civil society to play the role envisioned by the convention. In the UNGASS Political Declaration member states committed to ensuring that civil society actors can operate independently and without fear of reprisal, and to provide a safe and enabling environment to those who expose, report and fight corruption.

We therefore urge States Parties to ensure that reviews of Article 13 assess the measures taken by the State under review to implement freedom of association, assembly and expression, to foster an enabling environment for civil society and to protect civil society actors who face risks and attacks due to their anticorruption work.

With regard to technical assistance, we welcome the United Nations' recommendation in the UN Common Position on Addressing Global Corruption that recommendations related to corruption generated by the UN Human Rights Council, its special procedures and the UN human rights treaty bodies be taken into account in those decisions. As a first step towards achieving this, UNODC should liaise with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to compile and analyse such recommendations and make them available to the Implementation Review Group.

[Turning to the next phase of the IRM, given the significant delays in this cycle, we urge States Parties to agree on a timeline that ensures the start of the next phase at the latest six months after the end of the currently debated extension of the review cycle.

Concerning the process going forward, we believe it is crucial that the next phase includes a focus on the implementation of recommendations from its first phase, in line with the principle established in paragraph 40 of the Terms of Reference for the first phase.]

Thank you